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TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st December, 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

- (a) Part-time Medical Officer of Health:
G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.
- (b) Building Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:
W.P. ROBERTS, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
- (c) Public Health Inspector:
A.L. SANDERS, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
- (d) Meat Inspectors:
G.F. PENBERTHY, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
K.F. OVERY, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
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Official address and telephone number of the
Medical Officer of Health:-

Council Offices,
The Great House,
St. Peter Street,
TIVERTON, Devonshire.

Telephone No. Tiverton 2355.

TO THE
TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1959:-

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area:	114,139 acres
Population:	20,540
Rateable Value:	£189,918 at 1st April, 1959
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:	£768. 1s. 11d.
Social Conditions:	Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are, on the whole, good.
Slaughtering Industries:	The principal slaughterhouse in the district is:- Lloyd Maunder Ltd., Willand. In addition there are 9 other small private slaughterhouses licensed.
Other Main Industries:	Wiggins, Teape & Co., Paper Manufacturers, Bradninch. Reed & Smith Ltd., Paper Manufacturers, Silverton. " " " Cullompton. Culm Leather Dressing Co., Cullompton. Fox Bros., Weavers, Cullompton. " " " Uffculme. Dreven & Brown, Glove Manufacturers, Cullompton. The Tanneries, Cullompton. John Heathcoat & Co., Net Mending, Cullompton. Wilts United Dairies, Milk Factory, Hemyock. Dulverton Sawmills, Morebath. Bramber Engineering Works, Willand Duchess of Devonshire Dairy Co., Willand.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Live Births (Legitimate)	284	149	135	(Birth Rate per 1,000 of
(Illegitimate)	14	9	5	(the population - 14.0
Still Births (Legitimate)	6	4	2	(Rate per 1,000 total
(Illegitimate)				(births - 20.01
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.2 per, 1,000
Deaths	227	124	103	(Crude Death Rate per 1,000
				{of the estimated resident
				{population - 11.0
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	10.01 per 1,000 population
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	...	...	M. - 8; F. - 1.
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	20.3 per 1,000
Deaths from diseases & accidents (from sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
of pregnancy and child-birth (from other causes	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

EXCESSIVE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR

Deaths from Cancer during 1959 were 41. This compares with previous years as follows:- 1949 - 40; 1950 - 43; 1951 - 32; 1952 - 35; 1953 - 39; 1954 - 40; 1955 - 44; 1956 - 40; 1957 - 39; 1958 - 60.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	Alteration (from 1958)
Stomach	3	-	-5
Bronchus & Lung	6	1	-4
Breast	-	3	-4
Uterus	-	3	+2
Others	15	10	-8
	24	17	= Total of 41

GASTRIC CANCER

Our investigation into the abnormal incidence of gastric cancer is completed for the present and has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Public Health.

It is hoped with the help of the County Medical Staff to extend the work to the whole county.

I publish below a chart showing the incidence of gastric cancer in the various parishes during the past 12 years.

Popu- lation	Parish	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	TOTALS 1948 - 1959
1614	Bampton							1				1	1	3
211	Bickleigh						1							1
1767	Bradninch	1			1	1		2			1			6
699	Burlescombe	1							1			1		3
96	Butterleigh			1										1
143	Cadbury													-
165	Cadeleigh													-
165	Clayhanger													-
461	Clayhidon					1								1
432	C. Morchard		1								1			2
3377	Cullompton	4	4	1	1	1	3	2	5	4	4	2		31
716	Culmstock								1					1
1281	Halberton				1					1		2	1	5
1065	Hemyock							1						1
179	Hockworthy													-
489	H. Rogus		1		1							1		3
149	Huntsham											1		1
670	Kentisbeare						1			1	1			3
145	Loxbeare					1								1
364	Morebath			2										2
359	Oakford													-
669	S. Peverell			1			2	2						5
1274	Silverton			2			1	2	1	1	1			8
260	Stoodleigh													-
135	Templeton										1			1
701	Thorverton					1	1	2	1				1	6
1688	Uffculme					1	1		1	1		1		5
302	Updown													-
323	Washfield													-
808	Willand			1								1		2
TOTALS		6	6	8	4	6	10	12	10	8	9	10	3	92
11560	Tiverton Borough	1	3	4	2	2	7	3	3	1	2	4	5	37

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. NURSING IN THE HOME - HOME HELP SERVICE. Cases are dealt with by direct application from the District Nurses or Health Visitors to the County Office.
2. NUMBER OF MIDWIVES. The District Nurses, of whom there are 16, act in this capacity.
3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as previously and also at the Pathological Department of the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.
4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no major change during the year with regard to Legislation in force throughout the area.
5. POST HILL HOSPITAL. This Hospital now has 30 medical and convalescent beds. The former Diptheria block is out of use owing to lack of available funds and the difficulty of obtaining staff. Cases are admitted from the Tiverton & District Hospital and from Exeter. Cases are also sent in direct by General Practitioners.

6. GENERAL SURGICAL AND MEDICAL CASES. The Tiverton Hospital Group have provided an essential service to our district for very many years and this is particularly true with regard to emergencies. The rather liberal number of beds has obviated the disgraceful waiting lists which exist elsewhere. I regard it of the utmost importance that nothing is done to interfere with this happy state of affairs. By this I mean that a medical staff should be maintained of a suitable quality to meet the needs of our district, which has always regarded Tiverton as its centre for most of its hospital requirements.
7. MATERNITY CASES. The majority are admitted to the Tiverton and District Hospital, admission being controlled by the County Medical Officer. We could do with a few more beds.
8. AGED SICK. Improvement in the County Welfare Service has eased our problems in this direction, but our hospital beds are still cluttered up with the type of patient who would be better dealt with at much less expense in a County Hostel.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1959 giving age incidence.

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Ersipelas	Para Typhoid	Dysentery (Sonne)	Cerebo Spinal Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Under 1	-	-	8	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	7	28	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	4	-	7	45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 years	2	-	8	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 years	4	-	3	52	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	28	-	22	273	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10 - 14	13	-	7	59	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	2	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 & over	-	-	5	12	68	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Age Unknown	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	55	-	67	528	91	3	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1959.

Age Periods	N E W C A S E S				D E A T H S			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 30	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 & over	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	3	1	-	1	-	-	2	-

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.
No action was taken during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925, Section 62. No action was taken during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Since April, 1958, the North Devon Water Board has been responsible for supplying this Rural District with water.

They have carried out several improvements during the past year including the augmentation of the Regional Supply with water from Churchstanton. The Board have also extended their mains at Bickleigh, Langford Cullompton and Waterslade Hockworthy.

During 1959 regular samples have been taken from all the schemes operated by the North Devon Water Board. The majority of these have been satisfactory. Occasionally it has been necessary for the Board to step up the chlorination in parishes where intermittent pollution occurs.

We understand that during 1960 work will proceed on the scheme for supplying water to Rosemary Lane and the Village in the Parish of Clayhidon.

WATER SAMPLING (PRIVATE SUPPLIES AND WELLS)

Details of samples taken by the department during 1959 are give below:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total Taken</u>
BAMPTON	5	11	16
BICKLEIGH	-	1	1
BUTTERLEIGH	-	2	2
CLAYHIDON	1	1	2
CRUWYS MORCHARD	2	2	4
CULLOMPTON	1	2	3
HEMYOCK	-	2	2
HOLCOMBE ROGUS	-	3	3
LOXBEARE	-	2	2
OAKFORD	-	2	2
SILVERTON	1	-	1
STOODLEIGH	1	-	1
TEMPLETON	1	-	1
THORVERTON	2	1	3
UFFCULME	1	1	2
WASHFIELD	2	-	2
WILLAND	1	-	1
TOTALS:	18	30	48

In a number of cases where unsatisfactory reports were obtained it was recommended that a domestic type filter be fitted and in other cases the users were advised to boil all water for drinking purposes. Owing to the very dry summer a number of farms and other premises on the western side of the district were without water for some weeks and arrangements were made with the County Fire Service for water to be taken to these premises.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There is only one public swimming bath in the district: this is situated at the Old Well Roadhouse, Waterloo Cross, Uffculme. The bath is 75 feet long by 20 feet wide. At the beginning of the season the bath is completely filled with water from a nearby spring. The water is then re-circulated through a filter and hand chlorinated. There is also a continuous flow of spring water into the bath. Although the water has an objectionable appearance during the hot summer weather, bacteriological examinations of samples of the water have all proved satisfactory. We are arranging for weekly samples to be taken from the swimming bath during the summer of 1960. The swimming bath is used by the children attending the secondary schools at Uffculme and Cullompton.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new scheme at Willand has been completed and will be handed over to the Council in 1960. There are still complaints regarding the effluent at Lloyd Maunders. We understand that their consultants are preparing a comprehensive scheme to deal with the effluent from these premises.

Good progress has also been made with the Uffculme Scheme and this should also be handed over to the Council early in 1960. A supplementary scheme for the elimination of infiltration water is also to be prepared by the Consulting Engineers.

Work has also started on the sewerage scheme for the Parish of Culmstock and this scheme should also be handed over to the Council during 1960.

Further schemes are to be prepared for the parishes of Burlescombe including Westleigh, Holcombe Rogus and Silverton. It is hoped that these schemes will be submitted to the ministry during 1960 in order that work can commence, possibly in 1961.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal (Continued)

The preparation of the main scheme for Cullompton has been delayed for two reasons - 1) the uncertainty as to whether Sellwoods Tannery would be rebuilt after the disastrous fire; and 2) for new gauges to be taken of the flow in the existing sewer after a preliminary scheme for the elimination of infiltration water from the present sewers has been carried out: this work has now been carried out at a cost of £5,835.

It is hoped that a comprehensive scheme for Cullompton will be submitted to the Ministry during 1960.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

<u>Premises inspected or subject of inspection</u>	<u>No. of inspections</u>
Dairies (other than dairy farms)	26
Bakehouses	24
Shops and Food premises	112
Knackers' yards	22
Rodent control	94
Building Byelaws and Town & Country Planning	520
Petroleum storage installations	101
Caravan sites	62
Hides and skins stores	17
Public Houses	2
Public Conveniences	84
Private water supplies	66
Drainage works	357
Cattle markets	2
Infectious diseases	40
Ice cream	8
Refuse tips	64
Refuse complaints investigated	16
Slaughterhouses	400
Sewage Works	203
Smoke abatement	-
Nuisances and complaints investigated	147
Disinfestations (Infectious diseases and verminous)	27
Schools	10
Factories and workshops etc.	28
Housing inspections relating to improvement grants	200
Housing inspections relating to Rent Act, 1957, letting of Council Houses, Slum Clearance and Housing Act, 1954	221

CARAVAN, MOVEABLE DWELLING & CAMPING SITES

Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936

Total number of sites licensed at the end of 1959 16

Each site is also approved under the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	6	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	104	14	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	9	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	146	29	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	10	8	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork
(Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110				Section 111		
Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel (Making etc. (Cleaning and washing	19	-	-	-	-	-
Field Coils	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	20	-	-	-	-	-

4. Means of Escape In Case of Fire (Section 34)

Four certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire were granted.

BUILDING BYELAWS AND RELEVANT SECTIONS OF
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936
and TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1947

	<u>Deposited</u>	<u>Approved or pending</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Plans and applications in respect of buildings and other development and applications under the Control of Advertisements Regulations 1948	458	418	40

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD
PREMISES

1. Food & Drugs Acts 1938 and 1955 (sections 13, 14 and 16)

(a) Ice-cream premises:

(i) No. of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream during the year: 8

(ii) Total number of premises so registered: 83

(b) Bakeries:

No new bakeries were registered during the year. Informal action under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 secured improvements and a standard of cleanliness.

(c) Fried fish premises:

No new fish frying establishments were registered during the year.

(d) Egg packing stations:

No action has been necessary

(e) Butchers' shops:

No action has been necessary

Premises registered under the Food & Drugs Acts:

Bakehouses:	14
Butchers' shops:	27
Fried Fish shops:	6
Egg packing premises:	6
No. of cafes etc.	77

2. Food Hygiene Regulations 1955:

Implementation of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 has continued during the year. There has been no necessity for prosecution in any instance.

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle (except cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1898	198	1011	70614	93765
Number inspected	1898	198	1011	70614	93765
<u>All diseases except tuber- culosis and cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	16	74	333	326
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	693	92	22	6105	10302
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	36.61	54.54	9.49	9.11	11.32
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	5024
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.05	-	-	-	5.35
<u>Cysticerci</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	69	2	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	69	2	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat and offal condemned during the year:-
117 tons - 5 cwts - 0 qrs - 2 lbs.

4. Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954:

31 licenses to slaughter animals were granted or renewed during the year.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

This condition appears to be increasing steadily and is apparently due to the number of displaced persons in our m.dst coming from where the condition is endemic. As infected animals have been moved about so frequently and very often come from outside our district, it is impossible for the local authority to carry out adequate investigation of this condition. I suggest this would be better done on a county basis.

5. Milk and Dairies Regulations

11 dairies (other than dairy farms) were registered by the Council at the end of the year under review.

During the year 38 Dealers' Licenses were granted.

I am indebted to the officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

